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MOHLER FAMILY

This data comes from the Mohler Family Bible. I cannot locate the publisher and printing date.

Mohler, Elisha Grigsby Porter, b. Nov 18,1838, Augusta Co, Va; m. May 25, 1864, Mobile Ala; Sarah Louise Goodman, b. Oct 28, 1845, Dallas Co, Ala; dau of James W. Goodman and Caroline Sossaman. (other spellings Sasserman, Sassaman)

Carrie Lee Mohler, b. Dec 19, 1865, Mobile, Ala; m. Oct 30, 1888, Wayne Co, Ms; Lawrence Avera, son of Powell & Mary Avera. (1900 Census lists Lawrence b. Mar 1857 - probably son of William Powell Avera and Mary Davis of Greene, Co, Ms)

Bessie Long Mohler, b. Apr 25, 1867, Corinth, Ms; m. May 30, 1888, Wayne Co, Ms; Wister E. Breckenridge, son of N. B. & M. J. Breckenridge. (1900 Census lists Wister b. Nov 1857)

Duke Goodman Mohler, b. Dec 30, 1869, Wayne Co, Ms; m. Apr 11, 1903, Hattiesburg, Ms; Lula Drummond, dau of S & M.A. Drummond.

Ruby Bell Monler, b. Aug 21, 1871, Page Co, Va; m. Apr 27, 1905, Mt. Olive, Ms; Robert Henry Draughon, son of Robert & Mary Draughon.

Lula Mohler, b. Apr 16, 1873, Baltimore, Md; m. Aug 20, 1895, Wayne Co, Ms; William F. Stagg,(b. 1858, Matherville, Ms), son of William S & E Stagg. (1910 Census lists Will L and Loulie M Stagg)

Eugene Williams Mohler, b. Oct 19, 1874, Baltimore Md; d. July 20, 1875, Baltimore, Md.

Elisha Grigsby Porter Mohler, Jr, b. July 11, 1876, Baltimore, Md; m. Oct 7, 1909, Hawkinsville, Ga; Ida Cornelia Tarver, dau og Josephus & Bettie Tarver.

David Lyell Mohler, b. Aug 20, 1878, Wayne Co, Ms; m. Jun 12, 1907, Gulfport, Ms; Alma W. Reeves, dau of W. W. & Mary Reeves.

John Trimble Mohler, b. Dec 4, 1879, Wayne Co Ms; m. Apr 14, 1912, Long Beach, Ms; Minnie M. Rankin, dau of H.A. & Mary Rankin.

Margaret Genevieve Mohler, b. Nov. 13, 1881, Wayne Co, Ms; m. Dec. 31, 1903, Mt Olive, Ms; Robert Lee Martin, son of A.J. & S.A. Martin. (Robert Lee Martin is the son of Albert J and Sarah Ann(Gwin) Martin and was born Dec 17, 1875, Bogue Chitto, Ms. These are my wife's grandparents)

James Allen Mohler, b. Jul 9, 1884, Wayne Co, Ms; d. Aug 9, 1885, Wayne Co, Ms. (Buried in Stagg Cemetery)

Jacob Ernest Mohler, b. Nov 29, 1887, Wayne Co, Ms; m. Sept 20, 1920, New Orleans, La; Margaret Purvis Spencer, dau of George and Ida E. Spencer.

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Local History & Genealogical Dept.
Mohler Family

Images Under the Oaks

German Families of Ocean Springs, Part XLVI

By Ray L. Bellande

MOHLER FAMILY

Although the Mohler-Moler family has its roots in Germany, it is unclear where Ludwig Mohler (1696-1754), considered by family genealogist to be the first to arrive in the American colony at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in August 1730, originated from. He arrived aboard the Thistle, a vessel of Scottish registry.

Family lore relates that Ludwig Mohler was "of the Swiss" and it is possible that he was Swiss-German from Darmstadt in the state of Hesse. Ludwig Mohler is believed to have settled initially in New Jersey, but he and his wife are buried at Ephrata, Pennsylvania. (Moler, 1954, p. 11)

Robert Claude Mohler (1885-1962) and Alberta Ellen Kew Mohler (1899-1992) were the first of our industrious Mohler family to settle in Ocean Springs. They arrived here in 1929, from Marshall, Texas. Robert C. Mohler was the son of Jacob Mohler and Anna Goldsmith. He was born April 5, 1885, at Martinsburg, West Virginia. Among his siblings were: Paul J. Mohler, Henry I. Mohler, Mildred M. Zechner, Juanita M. Goode, Hazel M. Runkles, and Thurza M. Frocke. (*The Ocean Springs News, October 18, 1962, p. 1* and Shirley M. Giafaglione, February 3, 2004)

On December 24, 1918, at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Robert C. Mohler married Alberta E. Kew (1899-1992). She was born on November 25, 1899, in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, the early home of Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922). Her parents were Issac Kew and Catherine Oberlin. Alberta had immigrated to the United States in 1918. (History of JXCO, Ms., 1989, p. 290 and Margaret M. Mohler, February 3, 2004)

Robert and Alberta K. Mohler were the parents of: Bruce K. Mohler (1919-1948) married Margaret E. Miller (b. 1921); Robert G. Mohler (b. 1921) married Marion N. Fountain (b. 1929); Donald E. Mohler (1924-1989) married Marilee Boyd (d. 1989); Marilyn J. Mohler (1927-1941); Richard H. Mohler (b. 1930) married Rita Dietlin (b. 1936); Stanley H. Mohler (1931-1988) married Janice Fay Schuler Catchot (b. 1937); and Shirley Ann Mohler (b. 1935) married Leon Grafaglione (b. 1925). (Margaret Miller Mohler, February 3, 2004 and *The Ocean Springs Record, October 8, 1992, p. 7*)

Peripatetic career

Robert C. Mohler's occupation, machinist-mechanical engineer, and his desire to see the world brought him to many lands during his long career in the engineering and mining field. His early education in West Virginia consisted of high school, which was later supplemented with attendance at evening technical schools. While still a teen, R.C. Mohler commenced a four-year apprenticeship as a machinist with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Baltimore, Maryland. He rebuilt railcars and locomotives for one year following the completion of his on the job training.

Panama Canal

In 1907, Mr. Mohler relocated to Washington D.C. where he was employed at the Washington Navy Yard. By 1908, he had taken employment with the City of Washington D.C. in the water and sewer department. His salient task was to supervise the shop, which was responsible for the maintenance and repair of all pumps and boilers. It was doing his tenure in the national capitol that Mohler was loaned for several months in 1913, to the mechanical department of the Panama Canal to train machinists on heavy erection projects, including the installation of the Pedro Miguel lock on the "Big Ditch". The Panama Canal opened for marine traffic in August 1914.

Montana-Alaska

Returning from Panama in 1913, Robert C. Mohler found employment at Butte, Montana with the Timber Butte Mining Company. His duties here as assistant to the master mechanic included: supervision of shops, plant maintenance and repair of the power plant, mine cages and skips, and railroad. By 1915, R.C. Mohler had relocated to Ellamar, Alaska to serve as master mechanic for the Ellamar Mining Company. He was responsible for the power plant, shops, jetty, cranes, skips and cages, and a 2600-foot aerial tramway. Ellamar is situated on Prince William Sound near Valdez, Alaska, the scene of the 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker oil spill.

Courtesy of Margaret Miller Mohler.

R.C. and Alberta K. Mohler-Married in December 1918, at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Robert C. Mohler (1885-1962) and his bride, Alberta Kew (1899-1992), led a peripatetic life. Mr. Mohler was a mechanical engineer and his work brought him to many exotic places on the planet. Before retirement in 1960, he had lived and worked in Baltimore, Maryland; Washington D.C.; Panama Canal Zone; Butte, Montana; Ellamar, Alaska; Buffalo, New York; Marshall, Texas; Manila, Philippine Islands; Ahwaz, Persia (Iran); Mt. Savage, Maryland; and Nababeep, South Africa.

Gulf and Pacific Company at Manila, Philippine Islands in 1926. He would remain in the South Pacific until 1930, as in 1929 he took employment with the Honolulu Iron Works also in Manila. The Mohler's first daughter, Marilyn J. Mohler was born here in March 1927. While in the Philippines, Mr. unemployed.

At Ahwaz, Persia, Mr. Mohler superintended all shops, the diesel and steam power plant, and all construction equipment, which included: drag lines, wrecking cranes, jetty cranes, and oil and water pump stations.

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New York-Texas

In 1919, a newly wedded R.C. Mohler found employment with the Buffalo Forge Company. Here his first son, Bruce K. Mohler was born in December 1919. Mr. Mohler was general foreman and promoted to assistant shop superintendent. His duties included responsibility for factory output, power plant maintenance and general plant repairs and maintenance. In June 1921, Robert G. Mohler, "Big M", arrived at Buffalo.

Robert G. Mohler missed being a Texan by a few months as the family moved to Marshall, Texas from New York in 1922. Instead the honor went to Donald E. Mohler who could later celebrate his natal anniversary on April 23, 1924. In Texas, Mr. Mohler father was in charge of the locomotive and railcar shops of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. In addition as mechanical supervisor, the diesel and steam power plant were under his purview.

Philippine Islands

With a yen for adventure, R.C. Mohler joined the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company at Manila, Philippine Islands in 1926. He would remain in the South Pacific until 1930, as in 1929 he took employment with the Honolulu Iron Works also in Manila. The Mohler's first daughter, Marilyn J. Mohler was born here in March 1927. While in the Philippines, Mr. Mohler was involved with steam power plants; jetty cranes; logging machinery; sugar centrals; and railroads. It would appear that while on leave to the United States, the Mohler family discovered Ocean Springs, Mississippi for in January 1929, R.C. Mohler acquired about 25-acres of land north of Ocean Springs on Seaman Road.

Three of the final children of R.C. and Albert K. Mohler, Richard, Stanley, and Shirley Ann Mohler, were born at Biloxi, Mississippi between 1930 and 1936.

Persia

In 1931, Mr. R.C. Mohler left the tropical rain forests of the Philippine Islands for the dry deserts of Persia, now Iran. He was stationed at Ahwaz, Persia as mechanical and transportation superintendent of the Southern Persian Railways. Family archives have his contract with this organization, which carried a $6000 annual salary with an $800 travel stipend. This was an extraordinary income considering that America was mired in The unemployed.

At Ahwaz, Persia, Mr. Mohler superintended all shops, the diesel and steam power plant, and all construction equipment, which included: drag lines, wrecking cranes, jetty cranes, and oil and water pump stations.

Upon leaving Persia in December 1932, R.C. Mohler was given a farewell party. In a family document from this event, his Persian staff lauded their chief as follows:

During the period we have had the satisfaction of serving under you, you have always been a kind master and a friend to us, ever ready to help us and promote our interest, without in anyway slackening your practice of fairness and justice and your zealous consideration of the interest of the Persian Government.

Maryland

R.C. Mohler returned to his roots in 1934 and joined the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which was headquartered at Mt. Savage, Maryland. The line, which only had 150 miles of track, operated almost exclusively in Allegany County, Maryland, and a portion of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. It was owned by the Consolidation Coal Company. Mr. Mohler had complete charge of all shops, and the diesel and steam power plant.

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Mohler Family

Images Under the Oaks

German Families of Ocean Springs, Part XLVIX

By Ray L. Bellande

Tidy Car-Mohler's Auto Detailing

In early January 1979, Robert G. Mohler and son, Jerry Mohler, began their unique service of surgically cleaning the interiors and exteriors of automobiles. This painstaking process is often referred to as detailing. Robert acquired a franchise from Tidy Car after testing the automotive surface protective agent on his own vehicle for ten months. The Mohler operation was commenced in the old Wieder-Engbarth garage building located at present day 1025 Government Street. This derelict structure, formerly owned by the Ocean Springs Lumber Company, was acquired in February 1996, by Jerry Pelham, a native of Graceville, Florida. Mr. Pelham demolished the old garage and replicated the old building in early 1997. (*The Ocean Springs Record, July 29, 1982, p. 13* and JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk.1080, p. 560)

Mohler's Tidy Car relocated to the southeast corner of Washington and Porter in 1986, when the family purchased the Barnett Brothers Texaco at that site. Jerry Mohler and Richard "Brick" Mohler closed out their auto detailing service in early 2004. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 877, p. 100)

Mohler's Service Stations

Prior to the acquisition of Barnett's Texaco in December 1986, Robert G. Mohler had previous experience in the gasoline retailing business. From 1956-1958, he operated the Standard Oil service station on the southeast corner of Washington and Government, which later became the Zanca service station. The erection of this unique structure was commenced in February 1926, by the Standard Oil of Kentucky at the starting point of Jackson County's million dollar highway. The company paid L. Morris McClure (1884-1940) and Louis A. Lundy (1876-1941) $14,000 for the lot and invested about $30,000 in the building and equipment. Henry H. Furr, a local architect has recently acquired this interesting property. (Robert G. Mohler, February 17, 2004 and *The Jackson County Times, February 13, 1926*)

In March 1992, the Mohler's station on Washington and Porter became independent and ceased it relationship with Texaco. In 1930, Fred S. Bradford and Russell Carver had built Texaco a service station here. In November 1948, Frank Joachim remodeled this Texaco service station under his management. Two new subterranean storage tanks with a 10,000-gallon storage capacity were installed. Gasoline distribution to patrons was supplied by two new pumps, which were approached on a newly resurfaced driveway. In addition, Mr. Joachim had two sanitary restrooms for the convenience of his customers. (*The Jackson County Times, November 24, 1948, p. 1*)

In March 1977, Texaco sold their station to Clovis H. Barnett. By late 1983, Howard R. Barnett owned the business. In early 1992, Texaco requested that the Mohlers refurbish their subsurface fuel storage reservoirs and remodel the station building. A mutually acceptable agreement could not be reached, and they parted company with the Mohlers becoming an independent gasoline retailer. (*The Ocean Springs Record, March 5, 1992, p. 1*)

Circa 2001, Jeff "Bitty" Mohler opened his BPI Fuel, a Shell Oil station, on the northeast corner of Mississippi Highway No. 57 and US Interstate No. 10. He also operates a deli here at this south VanCleave site.

Filler Up Deli and Mohler's Donut Hut

Recent developments by the industrious Mohler brothers are Mohler's Filler Up in Ocean Springs and Mohler's Donut Hut in Vancleave. Jeff "Bitty" Mohler opened his Filler Up on February 12, 2004, in the space formerly utilized by Mohler's Auto Detailing. His menu features "Kathy's breakfast items" and a large selection of deli sandwiches and po-boys. The "Big M", an old fashioned, 1/2 pound, hamburger like your mama used to make, is a bargain at $2.99. For the average appetite, there is the "JuJu", a 1/4 pound hamburger, and naturally very reasonably priced.

In Vancleave, Jerry and Richard "Brick" Mohler are making final preparations to open Mohler's Donut Hut on Mississippi Highway 57, adjacent to the Family Dollar Store. They anticipate opening their new venture next week.

Donald E. Mohler

Donald Earl Mohler (1924-1989) was born April 23, 1924 at Marshall, Texas. He graduated from Ocean Springs High School with the Class of 1941. Donald married Marilee Boyd (d. 1989). They were childless. Donald E. Mohler was a career Army officer and retired at El Paso, Texas as a Lieutenant Colonel. He expired on July 28, 1989 at El Paso, Texas. Marilee B. Mohler passed on May 15, 1989, also at El Paso. No further information.

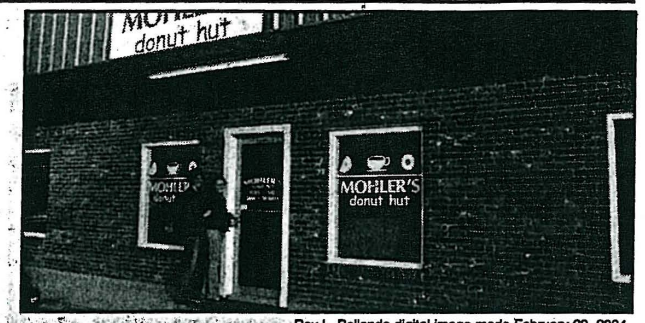
Marilyn J. Mohler

Marilyn Janet Mohler (1927-1941) was born in the Philippine Islands on March 28, 1927. During her fourteenth year, her health began to deteriorate and the vibrant teen expired at the Mohler homestead on Seaman Road. Marilyn was to enter the tenth grade at the St. Martin School prior to her debilitating five-month illness. Her corporal remains were interred in late November 1941, in the Evergreen Cemetery on Old Fort Bayou. (*The Daily Herald, December 1, 1941, p. 5*)

Richard H. Mohler

Richard Herbert Mohler (b. 1930) was born at Biloxi, Mississippi on March 26, 1930. He attended the local public school and graduated with the Class of 1948. In high school, Richard played the fullback position with great skill for four years, as a member of the Greyhound eleven managed by Coaches Buckingham and Jones. He also excelled on the basketball court and was Band captain. Upon graduation, Richard H. Mohler was recognized as Mr. Ocean Springs High School, most popular boy, most likely to succeed, and salutatorian of his class.

After high school, Richard H. Mohler enlisted in the US Army and served one-year active duty with the 5th Armored Division Band at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. In September 1950, he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and was honorably discharged from his military duties in September 1951. In 1951, Mohler matriculated to the University of Mississippi where he was awarded the UM Forest Lands academic scholarship. By August 1955, he had earned BA and MA degrees in Mathematics from Ole Miss. Mr. Mohler has completed post-Masters studies in higher mathematics at LSU and the



Ray L. Bellande digital image made February 29, 2004.

Mohler's Donut Hut-situated in the rapidly developing community of Vancleave on Mississippi Highway No. 57, Mohler's Donut Hut will open for business shortly. Jerry Mohler and Richard "Brick" Mohler will prepare amazingly delicious baked goods and liquid refreshments akin to Tato-Nut, another Mohler enterprise, proprietored by brother, David "Camp" Mohler and located on Government Street in Ocean Springs. Laurie B. Mohler, Jerry's wife, is shown entering the new shop with a future patron.

1982). Mr. Schuler, an electrician, hailed from Duluth, Minnesota while Mazelle was a native of Grenada, Mississippi. The Schulers resided on Pine Drive in Ocean Springs. (Janice F. Mohler, March 2, 2004 and JXCO, Ms. Circuit Court MRB 92, p. 524)

Stan H. Mohler made his livelihood in chemical sales. He worked for several chemical companies including Southern Sizing, Allied Chemical, and International Paper Company. His peripatetic career brought him, Janice, and their four children, Lloyd Dean Catchot Mohler (b. 1954), Stanley Keith Mohler (b. 1958), Marvin Jeffrey Mohler (b. 1961), and Ellen Mazelle Mohler (b. 1963), to many locations in the southeastern United States. The Mohlers could boast of having lived at Columbia, South Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Pembroke, Virginia; Monroe, Louisiana; and finally Mobile where they settled in 1969. Unfortunately, Stan's life ended tragically in an automobile accident, on the Natchez Trace near Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the early morning of August 17, 1988. Janice F. Mohler resides in Mobile today where she active in church work. (Janice

ard Herbert Mohler (b.

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After four years of teaching mathematics at Upper Iowa University and LSU, Richard H. Mohler joined the Martin Company at Denver, Colorado in August 1959, as a Subsystems Reliability Engineer. He joined General Electric in 1962 at Daytona Beach, Florida, as a Reliability Specialist where he worked on the Apollo support program. His work with General Electric brought him to Philadelphia and Evendale, Ohio where he retired in 1975. During his career in the aerospace and defense industries, Mr. Mohler wrote and delivered mathematical and engineering papers to several technical societies Today, Richard H. Mohler and spouse, Rita Dietlin Mohler (b. 1936), a native of Plymouth, Massachusetts resided in Fairfield, Ohio. Their daughter, Micheline Mariann Mohler King (b. 1970), a graduate of the University of Miami (Ohio), and her spouse and their two children are also domiciled in Fairfield.

Stanley H. Mohler

Stanley Howard "Bee" Mohler (1931-1988) was born July 30, 1931, in Biloxi, Mississippi. He graduated with the Ocean Springs High School Class of 1949. After serving in the US Army in Hawaii, as a lieutenant, Stan matriculated to Mississippi State University where he studied Chemical Engineering. He was student body president at State College in 1958. In July 1957, Stan H. Mohler had married Janice Fay Schuler Catchot (b. 1937), the daughter of Marvin G. "Brick", Schuler (1912-1997) and Mazelle Morgan Schuler (1917-

Mohlers could boast of having lived at Columbia, South Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Pembroke, Virginia; Monroe, Louisiana; and finally Mobile where they settled in 1969. Unfortunately, Stan's life ended tragically in an automobile accident, on the Natchez Trace near Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the early morning of August 17, 1988. Janice F. Mohler resides in Mobile today where she active in church work. (Janice F. Mohler, March 2, 2004)

Shirley A. Mohler

Shirley Ann Mohler (b. 1935) was born September 26, 1935 in Biloxi, Mississippi. After her sophomore year at Ocean Springs High School, she spent eighteen months with her parents in South Africa and finished her high school education through the American School program based in Chicago. Shirley attended a prep school in Massachusetts and the Latin American Institute in New York City before meeting her future husband, Leon J. "Jeff" Giafaglione (b. 1925), a native of New Orleans. They were married at the Mohler family home in May 1957.

Shirley M. Giafaglione has worked as the secretary for the manager of the Ocean Springs State Bank and for sixteen years served as a youth court volunteer. Leon is a cabinetmaker and for many years was employed by Carroll Benton Isheé (1921-1982), Ocean Springs unique naturalist builder. Since 1970, Jeff and Shirley have worked summers under the auspices of the Methodist Church at its Redbird Mission in the coalfields of southeastern Kentucky.

In 1961, before their children, Leon Bryan Giafaglione (b. 1963) and Perri Giafaglione (b. 1967), were born, Shirley and Jeff, both motorcyclists, embarked from Galveston, Texas for Europe, with their bike on the deck of a Lykes freighter. Three and one-half months later, the Giafagliones had toured thirteen countries and brought home experiences for a lifetime.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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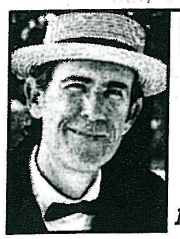


Images Under the Oaks

German Families of Ocean Springs, Part XLVIII

By Ray L. Bellande

Perkinston-1946

In early August 1946, Robert G. Mohler returned to Ocean Springs for a two-week vacation with the full intent to return to Knoxville in September. It was then that he determined that the distance to the Tennessee campus and the realization how long he had been gone during the war, that he wanted to be nearer friends and family. Bob requested a release from his Tennessee scholarship in order to join a team closer to Ocean Springs. Coach Neyland refused which deemed him to wait a year before he could play with another Southeastern Conference team. Not wishing to watch from the sidelines, Mohler headed to Perkinston Junior College to resume his gridiron career. At Perkinston, Robert G. Mohler played for Coach George B. Westerfield (1919-1981) and J.E. Stonestreet, his assistant. Buddy Beaugez of Ocean Springs was also in the Perk backfield with Mohler while Lou and John Pitalo from Biloxi bolstered the offensive and defensive line. The Bulldogs had a poor season winning only three games out of ten played in Mississippi JUCO play. (*The Daily Herald, September 19, 1946, p. 7* and Sullivan, 2002, p. 380)

The 1948 Perk squad led by Bobby Holmes and Davis Melton, two Alabama athletes, won the Mississippi State JUCO title and were co-National Champions. (Sullivan, 2002, p. 320)

Tuscaloosa-1947

In July 1947, Robert Mohler with his friend, Bernell Seymour (1922-1991) drove to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Bob Mohler had decided to offer his athletic services to Harold D. "Red" Drew of the Crimson Tide and wanted a tryout for a football scholarship. Mohler injured while serving with the National Guard in North Louisiana. While unloading tent poles from a truck, one had accidentally perforated his left shoulder above the pectoral muscle. This wound eventually led to a deep infection in the clavicle region, which hospitalized him at Hot Springs for several months. Army doctors predicted that his promising baseball and football careers would never materialize because of the serious nature of the wound. Young Mohler was not deterred by their dire predictions. In the late evenings, he would go to the hospital gym and unknown to anyone, exercise his stiff and sewn pectoral muscle region. It became an unsolved mystery to Mohler's physicians how his surgical stitches kept breaking!

When the Alabama team physician observed Mohler's wound, he became alarmed. His recommendation to Coach Drew was that Mohler should only be permitted to practice lightly until the shoulder was fully healed. At this point, Robert decided to leave Tuscaloosa.

Starkville 1949-1950

With the Tuscaloosa disappointment in rear view, Bob Mohler must have doubted if he would ever make it into the Southeastern Conference as a football player. Determined to succeed and confident of his abilities as a runner and punter, he went to Starkville to offer his services to Arthur W. "Slick" Morton, the Bull Dog mentor. Morton, an LSU graduate, came to State in 1949 and compiled an 8-18-1 record during his brief tenure at State College. Bob Mohler's introduction to Coach Morton was difficult. Morton was obviously busy with pre-season drills and not particularly interested in interviewing a walk-on prospect. Finally, Mohler trapped him in blockers to lead interference. When he sailed pass tacklers, Morton removed his interference and sent Robert without blockers against four streaking pursuers. Again, Mohler showed his mettle and avoided the tacklers with ease. Regardless of his talent and skill at the running back position, Slick Morton ignored Mohler. Bob was apparently doomed to ride the pine.

Jesse Fatherree

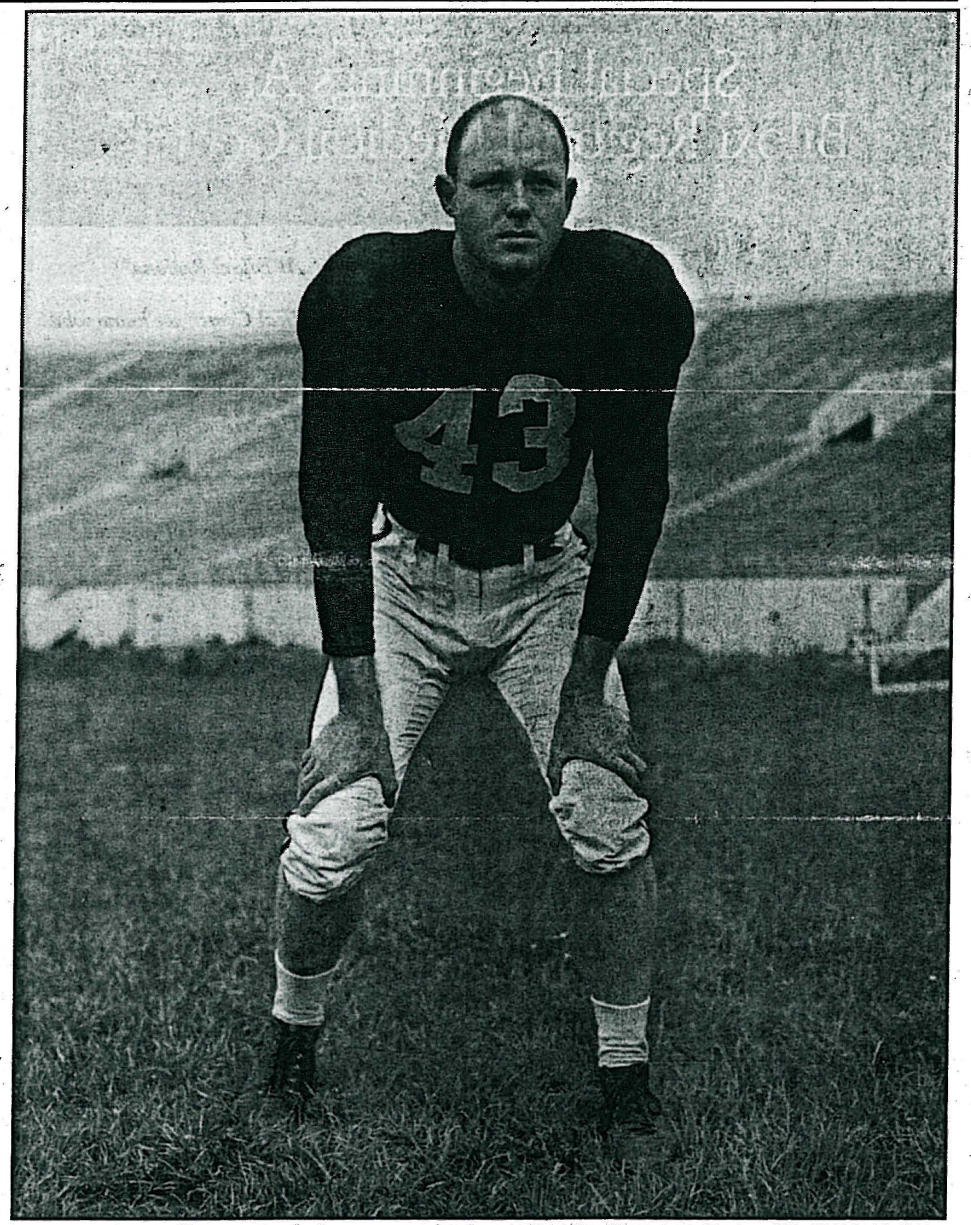
It was assistant coach, Jesse Fatherree, a member of the 1935 SEC Champion LSU tiger football team, who saw the potential in Robert Mohler. Fatherree, himself a rusher of renown in the annals of LSU football chronicles, was All-SEC in 1935. Some highlights of his career were a 94-yard touchdown run against Georgia and a punt return of 100-yards. Coach Fatherree knew that Mohler's speed would be invaluable to the defense and he made a cornerback out of the Ocean Springs flash. This move paid off in the Alabama game at Tuscaloosa in 1950, when Robert Mohler ran down the Alabama runner, Lawrence E. "Larry" Chiodetti (1931-1993), a former 220-yard dash state champion, before he reached the Bulldog goal. Mohler was on the opposite end of the line from where the play was run!

Post-graduation

Robert G. Mohler graduated with honors from Mississippi State College in 1951 and earned a Masters of Education from USM in 1960. He never taught public school, but began his work career in 1952, as the co-owner of McElroy Nash Co., Inc. an automobile dealership selling the Nash motorcar. Nash was founded in 1916, when Charles W. Nash absorbed the Rambler Motor Company. Nash became American Motors in 1954, when it merged with Hudson Motor Car Company. Mohler's dealership was at 510 Caillavet Street in Biloxi. (Robert G. Mohler, February 17, 2004)

Galloping Gaels

During his tenure in automo-



Courtesy of "Big M", Robert G. Mohler.

Robert G. Mohler-This vintage image of Robert G. Mohler (b. 1921) was taken at Scott Field on the campus of Mississippi State College in 1950. Robert was an outstanding baseball and football athlete at Ocean Springs High School graduating with the Class of 1939. After completing his military service during WWII, he matriculated to Tennessee where he was offered a football scholarship by General Robert R. Neyland. Mohler left Tennessee and played a year at Perkinston JC before walking on at Alabama. An injury from his National Guard days forced him to leave the Crimson Tide. Robert walked on at Mississippi State and played defensive back for two years, graduating with honors in 1951. Upon returning to Ocean Springs in the early 1950s, he played left half back for the Galloping Gaels, a Biloxi football club.

critique a player's performance without damaging his ego. V. Clay Boyd (1911-1974) of the Ocean Springs Greyhounds also possessed this talent. In 1951, Street turf in the Gaels 31-0 scrubbing of the swabbies from Algiers. Quarterback Buddy Beaugez, another Ocean Springs lad, who starred at retirement. With a growing family to support, Robert in1960 had started a Spud Nut franchise on the east side of Washington Avenue between

with another Southeastern Conference team. Not wishing to watch from the sidelines, Mohler headed to Perkinston Junior College to resume his gridiron career. At Perkinston, Robert G. Mohler played for Coach George B. Westerfield (1919-1981) and J.E. Stonestreet, his assistant. Buddy Beaugez of Ocean Springs was also in the Perk backfield with Mohler while Lou and John Pitalo from Biloxi bolstered the offensive and defensive line. The Bulldogs had a poor season winning only three games out of ten played in Mississippi JUCO play. (*The Daily Herald, September 19, 1946, p. 7* and Sullivan, 2002, p. 380)

The 1948 Perk squad led by Bobby Holmes and Davis Melton, two Alabama athletes, won the Mississippi State JUCO title and were co-National Champions. (Sullivan, 2002, p. 320)

Tuscaloosa-1947

In July 1947, Robert Mohler with his friend, Bernell Seymour (1922-1991) drove to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Bob Mohler had decided to offer his athletic services to Harold D. "Red" Drew of the Crimson Tide and wanted a tryout for a football scholarship. Mohler had known Coach Drew when he was Robert's commanding officer in pre-flight school at the University of Georgia in Athens. At this time, the flyboy schoolboys had a team that would beat the University of Georgia in scrimmage games.

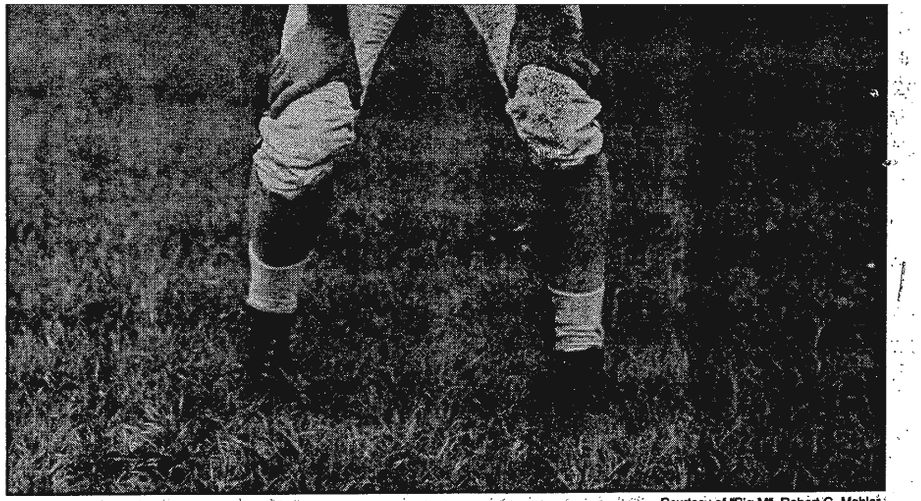
Bob Mohler was given a walk-on scholarship and practiced with the Alabama football squad until classes commenced in September. At this time, the Coach Fatherree knew that Mohler's speed would be invaluable to the defense and he made a cornerback out of the Ocean Springs flash. This move paid off in the Alabama game at Tuscaloosa in 1950, when Robert Mohler ran down the Alabama runner, Lawrence E. "Larry" Chiodetti (1931-1993), a former 220-yard dash state champion, before he reached the Bulldog goal. Mohler was on the opposite end of the line from where the play was run!

Post-graduation

Robert G. Mohler graduated with honors from Mississippi State College in 1951 and earned a Masters of Education from USM in 1960. He never taught public school, but began his work career in 1952, as the co-owner of McElroy Nash Co., Inc. an automobile dealership selling the Nash motorcar. Nash was founded in 1916, when Charles W. Nash absorbed the Rambler Motor Company. Nash became American Motors in 1954, when it merged with Hudson Motor Car Company. Mohler's dealership was at 510 Caillavet Street in Biloxi. (Robert G. Mohler, February 17, 2004)

Galloping Gaels

During his tenure in automobile sales, Robert G. Mohler felt the need to lace up his cleats, don a helmet, and share the camaraderie of team football again. He satisfied this urge with the Galloping Gaels, an amateur football club in Biloxi. The Gaels were coached by Louis E. "Lou" Presti (1917-1993) who was in the Army Air Corps at Keesler Field, during WWII. Coach Presti remained in Biloxi to coach football at



Courtesy of "Big M", Robert G. Mohler.

Robert G. Mohler-This vintage image of Robert G. Mohler (b. 1921) was taken at Scott Field on the campus of Mississippi State College in 1950. Robert was an outstanding baseball and football athlete at Ocean Springs High School graduating with the Class of 1939. After completing his military service during WWII, he matriculated to Tennessee where he was offered a football scholarship by General Robert R. Neyland. Mohler left Tennessee and played a year at Perkinston JC before walking on at Alabama. An injury from his National Guard days forced him to leave the Crimson Tide. Robert walked on at Mississippi State and played defensive back for two years, graduating with honors in 1951. Upon returning to Ocean Springs in the early 1950s, he played left half back for the Galloping Gaels, a Biloxi football club.

the hospital gym and unknown to anyone, exercise his stiff and sewn pectoral muscle region. It became an unsolved mystery to Mohler's physicians how his surgical stitches kept breaking!

When the Alabama team physician observed Mohler's wound, he became alarmed. His recommendation to Coach Drew was that Mohler should only be permitted to practice lightly until the shoulder was fully healed. At this point, Robert decided to leave Tuscaloosa.

Starkville 1949-1950

With the Tuscaloosa disappointment in rear view, Bob Mohler must have doubted if he would ever make it into the Southeastern Conference as a football player. Determined to succeed and confident of his abilities as a runner and punter, he went to Starkville to offer his services to Arthur W. "Slick" Morton, the Bull Dog mentor. Morton, an LSU graduate, came to State in 1949 and compiled an 8-18-1 record during his brief tenure at State College. Bob Mohler's introduction to Coach Morton was difficult. Morton was obviously busy with pre-season drills and not particularly interested in interviewing a walk-on prospect. Finally, Mohler trapped him in his office and the coach relented. He told Bob to get a uniform from the trainer and be on the practice field that afternoon. In the dressing room, Mohler finally got a ragtag assortment of gear from the disinclined trainer. With an oversized helmet, which could rotate 360 degrees around his head, torn pants, and unfitted, high-top shoes, Bob Mohler was introduced to Bully football. His

critique a player's performance without damaging his ego. V. Clay Boyd (1911-1974) of the Ocean Springs Greyhounds also possessed this talent. In 1951, his first year with the Gaels, Robert G. Mohler had an outstanding game in early October against the Algiers Naval Station eleven. The first score was set up when Dallas Comeaux (b. 1924), now a resident of the Villa Maria, returned a punt to the Algiers 27 yard line. Two plays later, Bob Mohler from his left half back post raced 20 yards for a score. It was the first of three touchdowns that Mohler scored that

Street turf in the Gaels 31-0 scrubbing of the swabbies from Algiers. Quarterback Buddy Beaugez, another Ocean Springs lad, who starred at Perkinston Jr. College also played in this game returning punts. (Dallas Comeaux and Robert G. Mohler, February 17, 2004 and *The Daily Herald, October 8, 1951, p. 9*)

Civil Service-entrepreneur

Upon leaving the automobile business in Biloxi, Robert G. Mohler joined the Civil Service at Keesler Air Force Base in 1958. He remained here twenty-

retirement. With a growing family to support, Robert in1960 had started a Spud Nut franchise on the east side of Washington Avenue between Porter and Bowen in a Moran rental. The business moved north up Washington near Desoto into a building owned by Archie W. Tootle (1925-1975). Later Spud Nut became Tato Nut and is now situated at its familiar location on Government and Kotzum and has been managed by David "Camp" Mohler since 1980.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogical Dept.
Mohler Family

Images Under the Oaks

German Families of Ocean Springs, Part XLVII

By Ray L. Bellande

South Africa

From Mohler family documents, it is known that in 1938, foreign shores called again and Robert C. Mohler continued his peripatetic career as a mechanical engineer. He and Mrs. Mohler departed America for the Union of South Africa where he contracted with the O'okiep Copper Company Ltd. at Nababeep, Northern Cape Province. Initially at Nababeep, Mohler was charged with the construction and erection of all mechanical equipment. Among the operations, which he supervised were: mining hoists and headgear; ore concentrators; the sulfuric acid plant and leaching plant; smelter; power plant; workshops; and a fully operational water systems equipped to function in a semi-arid environment.

Because the O'okiep Copper Company facility at Nababeep was isolated from rail and seaports, it was vital that a highly functional workshop exist to maintain and repair all onsite machinery, motor vehicles, and light plants. Mohler had over one hundred vehicles to service and maintain. They ranged from motorcars to Mack trucks, semi-trailers, and trailers.

When copper production commenced in 1941, Robert C. Mohler assumed complete control of the mechanical functions of the plant. The company smelter had an output of 2500-3000 tons of blister copper each month from about 100,000 tons of ore.

In 1950, Shirley Ann Mohler spent a year in South Africa with her parents. Although she resisted initially, the overall experience was an important part of her education. (Shirley M. Giafaglione, February 3, 2004)

Robert C. Mohler retired from a long and exciting career as a mechanical engineer in 1955. He spent his final years at his Seaman Road home in the Latimer community. and passed there on October 8, 1962. Alberta Kew Mohler expired on October 4, 1992. Both are interred in the Evergreen Cemetery on Old Fort Bayou. (*The Ocean Springs News, October 18, 1962, p. 1* and *The Ocean Springs Record, October 8, 1992, p. 7*)

Mohler lands

In January 1929, Robert C. Mohler purchased 25.1 acres in Jackson County, Mississippi from George C. Robinson. This tract consisted of Lots 38, 39, 40, and 41 of Block 3 of the Suburban Acres Subdivision. These lots are located on Seaman Road in Section 1, T7S-R9W, about .7 miles from the bifurcation of North Washington Avenue at Tucker Road and Seaman Road. Mr. Mohler conveyed this property to his spouse in November 1929. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 62, pp. 238-239 and Bk. 63, pp. 155-156)

When Robert C. Mohler acquired this tract, it had 1800 tung oil trees and 250 pecan trees growing on it. Today, the old Mohler home on Seaman Road is extant and owned by the Giafaglione family. They have also retained most of the original R.C. Mohler tract that was acquired in 1929. (Shirley M. Giafaglione, February 3, 2004)

Children of Robert C.

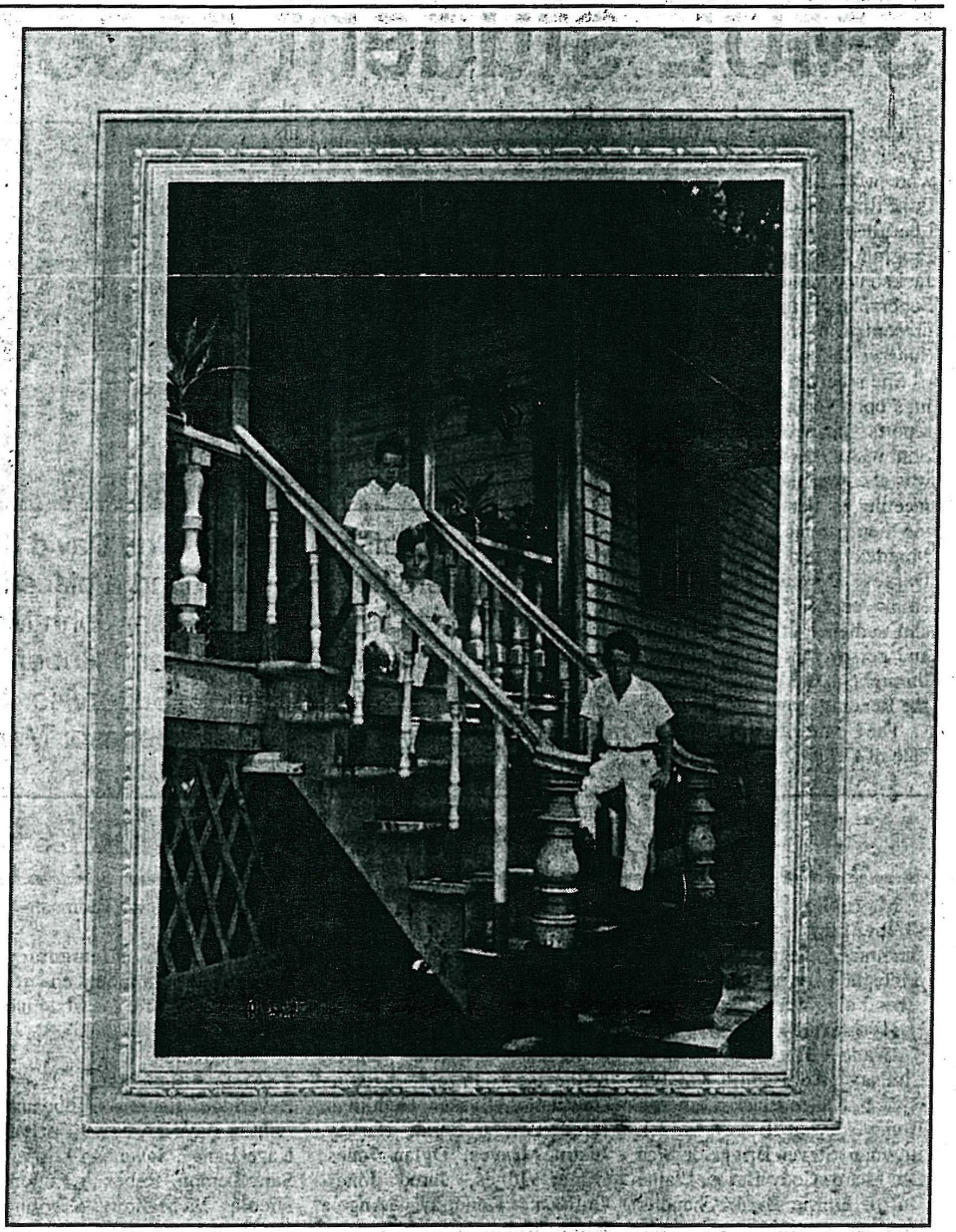
December 23, 1919. He completed his education in 1939, at the Ocean Springs High School and was attending Perkinston Junior College, when he enlisted in the National Guard in December 1940. In April 1942, Bruce married Margaret Miller (b. 1921), the daughter of R.C. Miller (1887-1953) and Lydia Polk (1901-1990). Mr. Miller was very active in law enforcement and local politics in Ocean Springs. He served his community as Mayor from 1951 to 1953. Prior to this time, he had been active as town marshal and city tax collector. (History of JXCO, Ms., 1989, p. 289 and p. 290)

Bruce and Margaret M. Mohler were the parents of two sons born at Biloxi, Mississippi: Bruce K. Mohler Jr. (b. 1943) married Martha Howard and Donald Gerald Mohler (b. 1945) married Margaret A. Barbour Smith (b. 1947).

While serving his country in the Army Air Corp, Sergeant Bruce K. Mohler was killed in an airplane disaster at Ellison AFB near Fairbanks, Alaska on November 12, 1948. His military career had commenced in 1940 and had brought him duty stations at Camp Blanding, Florida; Keesler Field, Mississippi; Chanute Field, Illinois; Gulfport Field. Mississippi; and Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. Mr. Mohler's corporal remains were returned to Ocean Springs for internment in the Evergreen Cemetery. (History of JXCO, Ms., 1989, p. 290 and *The Jackson County Times, December 3, 1948, p. 1*)

Robert G. Mohler

Robert "Bob" Gerald Mohler was born on June 23, 1921 at Buffalo, New York. He married Marian Verona "Nona" Fountain who was born November 7, 1929, the daughter of Wallace Peter Fountain (1903-1958) and Verona Catherine Green (1903-1981) Their children and initial spous-



Courtesy of Margaret Miller Mohler

Philippine Islands circa 1927-This vintage image of the first three children of Robert C. Mohler (1895-1962) and Alberta Kew Mohler (1889-1992) was made at their home in Manila, Philippine. From top to bottom are: Robert G. Mohler (b. 1921), Donald L. Mohler (1924-1989) and Bruce K. Mohler (1919-1948). In March 1927, Marilyn Janet Mohler (1927-1941) was born in this house. She expired at Ocean Springs in November 1941.

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Children of Robert C. Mohler and Alberta E. Kew

Bruce K. Mohler

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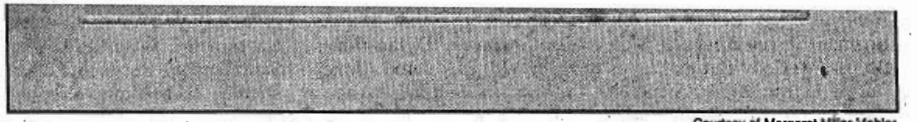
Robert "Bob" Gerald Mohler was born on June 23, 1921 at Buffalo, New York. He married Marian Verona "Nona" Fountain who was born November 7, 1929, the daughter of Wallace Peter Fountain (1903-1958) and Verona Catherine Green (1903-1981) Their children and initial spouses were: Robert Gerald Mohler (b. 1955) married Laurie Lynd Bond (b. 1966); Mark Kendall Mohler (b. 1957) married Deborah Lynn Rivers (b. 1959); David Martin "Camp" Mohler (b. 1959) married Theresa Annette Tapper (b. 1971); Richard Kevin "Brick" Mohler (b. 1961) married Heather M. Williams (b. 1973); Guy Jeffrey "Bitty" Mohler (b. 1962) married Carole Lynne McMurtray (b. 1963); Michael Paul Mohler (1964-1987); and Gregory Scott Mohler (b. 1966) married Jacquelyn Lynn Bond (b. 1965). (Fountain, 1987, p. 66)

Athletic career

Inheriting some of his



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father's peripatetic nature, Robert G. Mohler was awarded football scholarships to several Southeastern Conference schools. Circa 1946, after discharge from his Naval military service following WWII, he matriculated to the University of Tennessee on the first of his three football scholarships. General Robert R. Neyland (1892-1962) was the coach. Bob relates that one of the proudest moments of his life was being selected to play under the tutelage of the great General Neyland, a 1916 graduate of West Point.

General Robert R. Neyland

As most football aficionados know, General Neyland was one of the most successful teachers of the sport. During his tenure at Knoxville, he brought the Volunteers to the pinnacle of gridiron greatness. Neyland's interrupted coaching career at Tennessee between 1926 and 1952, resulted in a record of 173 wins, 32 losses, and 12 ties. His 1951 Vols were National Champions, and he was enshrined in the Hall of Fame in 1956. General Neyland also instituted the Vol Radio Network with play by play broadcasting by Linsey Nelson. In 1962, The University of Tennessee dedicated their football stadium to General Neyland. It is the largest in the South with a seating capacity of 104,079 people.

Bob Mohler when reminiscing about Coach Neyland remembers that he was an excellent teacher, disciplinarian, and a fanatic on the basics of the game-blocking and tackling. Neyland's philosophy was that if a player could not skillfully block and tackle, he could not play the game for him.

During a Vols practice, Bob Mohler as the tailback in the Tennessee single wing attack was running an off tackle play. When he got near the line of scrimmage, there was no hole. Mohler cut to his left found the middle of the line vacant and raced sixty-five yards untouched. When he turned around, Coach Neyland was racing towards him. Neyland blew the whistle and had the team and other coaches form a circle around the befuddled Bob Mohler. It was then that Coach Neyland delivered one his lessons on how to play the game correctly. He asked running back, Mohler, rather bluntly, "Where was that play designed to go." Bob answered somewhat reluctantly, "Off right tackle, sir." Neyland then reminded his team that they practiced plays to be executed in a precise manner. His comment to Bob Mohler that impressionable day was, "I don't care where the hole in the line is. Run to the point of attack where it is suppose to be. I don't care if you have to run up the rear end of ten men to get there, but run the play as drawn on the chalk board!"

Neyland's philosophy of winning football based primarily on field position that Bob Mohler remembers from his six-months on the practice field in Knoxville were as follows; when inside your own twenty-yard line, punt the ball on second down; when inside your own thirty-yard line kick on third down; blocking is the key to a successful rushing game. Neyland often told his players, "My sixteen year old son could score touchdowns if everyone executed their blocking assignments correctly."

(TO BE CONTINUED)